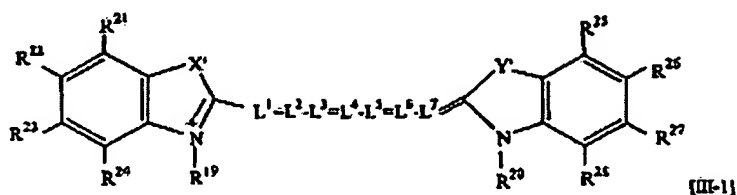


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A sodium salt of a compound of formula III-1 having three or more sulfonic acid groups in a molecule



wherein  $L^1-L^7$  are the same or different, each of  $L^1-L^3$  and  $L^5-L^7$  is substituted or unsubstituted methine and  $L^4$  is methine substituted by alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and substituted by a sulfonic acid group,  $R^{19}$  and  $R^{20}$  are lower alkyl having 1 to 5 carbon atoms and are substituted by a sulfonic acid group,  $R^{21} - R^{28}$  are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a sulfonic acid group, a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkyl(sulfoalkyl)amino group, a bis(sulfoalkyl)amino group, a sulfoalkoxy group, a (sulfoalkyl)sulfonyl group or a (sulfoalkyl)aminosulfonyl group, and  $X'$  and  $Y'$  are the same or different and each is a group of the formula